

Torch

Spring 3-1-1990

Torch, Spring 1990

Cedarville College

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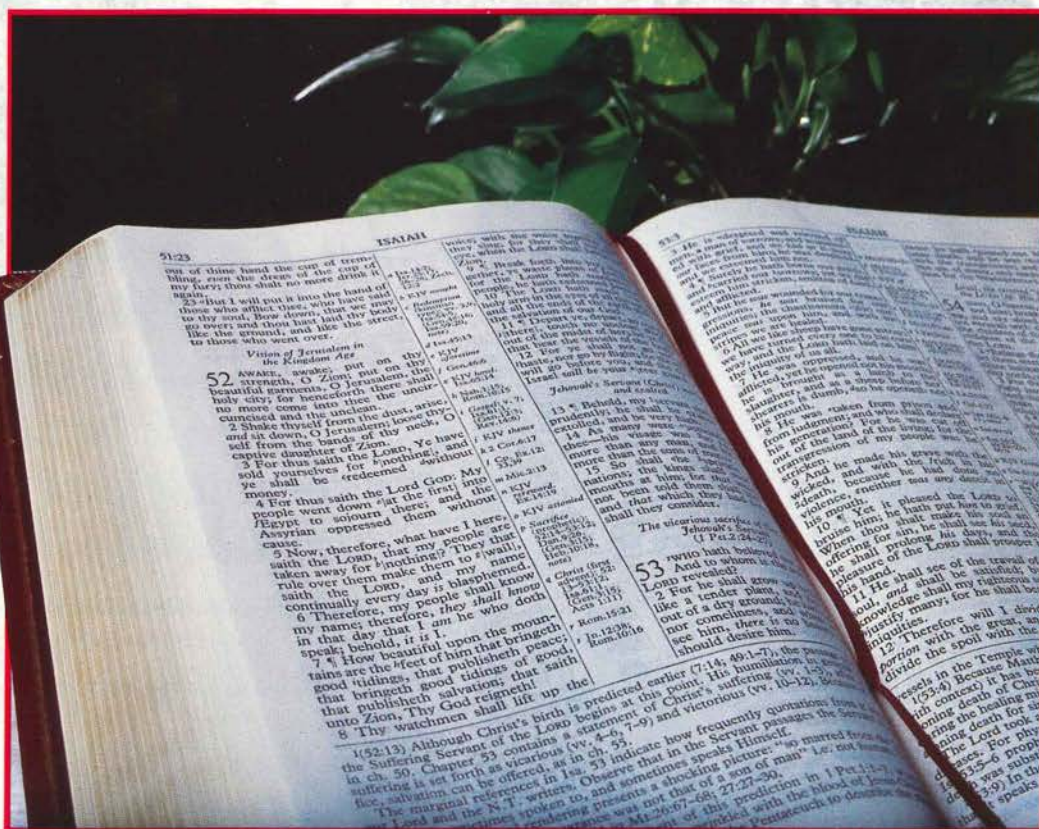
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CEDARVILLE TORCH

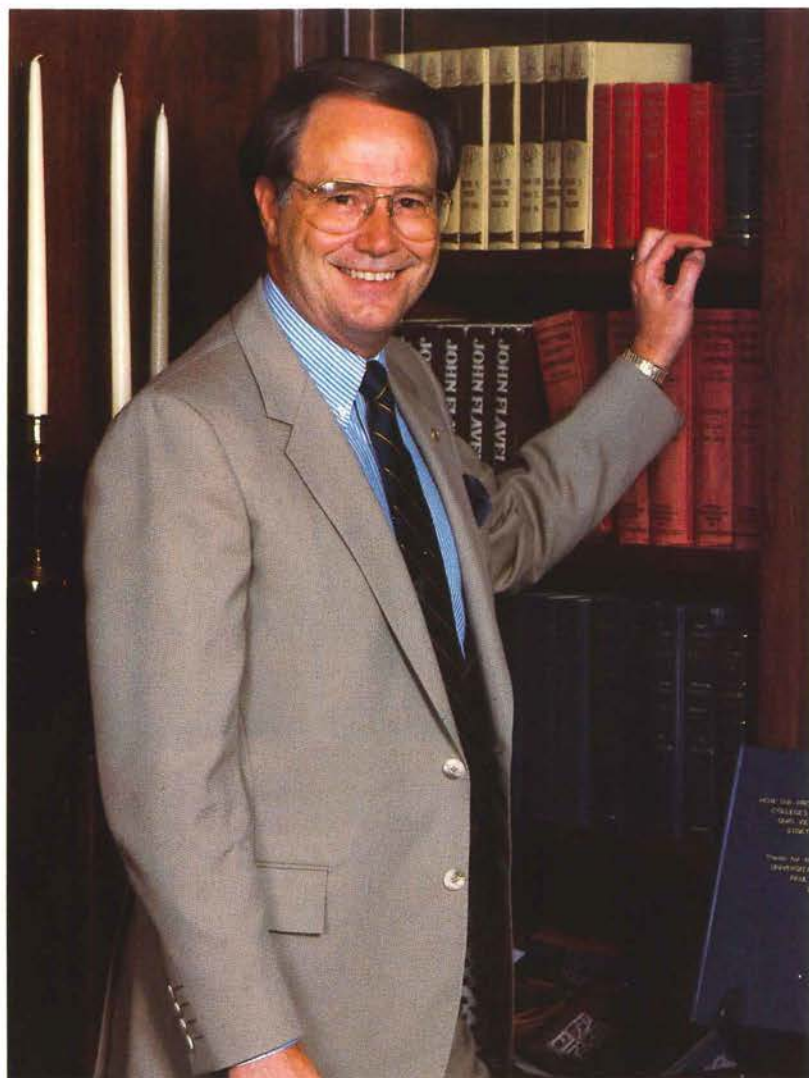
A Magazine Ministry of Cedarville College



The SCRIPTURES

Relevant for Today
and Tomorrow

The Book for Cedarville College in the 21st Century



by Dr. Paul Dixon
President
Cedarville College

*One thing
will not change
about Cedarville.
We will continue
to fulfill the mission of
the College as we
remain faithful to the
ageless Book of Books.*

Cedarville College is positioning for the twenty-first century, the beginning of an entirely new millennium!

Academically, we are building a Bachelor of Science in Engineering program to begin in the fall of 1990. Recognizing that the United States is projected to be short 900,000 engineers by the year 2000, we intend to prepare Christians who will graduate with ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accreditation and who will make a difference in this important ministry for the cause of Christ.

The College is planning several facilities that should be completed, the Lord willing, by the end of the 1990's.

Construction is to begin on the new 62,000 square feet engineering/nursing building in the early spring of 1991. The present science facility will be renovated at the same time, and occupancy for both buildings is anticipated in the fall of 1992.

Moreover, task teams are working diligently on a new music building, a chapel expansion, and a new student union. A master plan is in place for the remodeling of older dormitories and construction of new dormitories for the decade of the 1990's.

A changing face for the campus? Yes! A changing curriculum? Yes! A changing mission? No! A changing foundation? No!

Cedarville College is anchored in the unchanging, inerrant Word of the changeless God. Our doctrinal statement is clear:

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, embracing all matters which the biblical authors address, and believe that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life. 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

Every trustee, administrator, faculty and staff member annually is required to sign our doctrinal statement and standards of conduct.

Our requirement that all our graduates minor in Bible is immovable. Does this add to the already rigorous course load in engineering, nursing, premed, prelaw, and other majors? Yes! But our number one stated objective is "to undergird the student in the fundamentals of the Christian faith, and to stimulate him to evaluate knowledge in the light of scriptural truth."

Chapel is the heartbeat of every Christian college. If you want to see the direction of any Christian institution of higher learning, show up in chapel. At Cedarville College it will continue to be required of students and faculty on a daily basis.

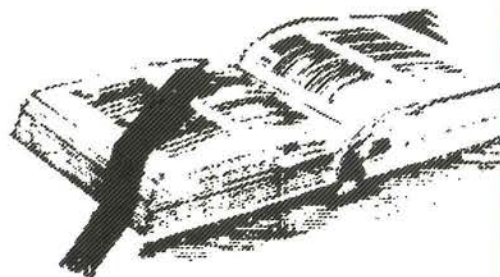
I am committed to making the planning of those chapels one of my chief priorities. Those who will stand behind our pulpit to preach will believe the eternal, inerrant Textbook.

Martin Luther, commenting about Hebrews 10:7 ("in the volume of the book it is written of me"), asked, "What Book and what Person? There is only one Book—Scripture—and only one Person—Jesus Christ."

This issue of *Cedarville TORCH* focuses upon that unchanging written Word that reveals the everlasting Living Word, Jesus Christ. The Book of the Ages is the Book for Cedarville College.

We are in a new decade and almost ready to enter a new millennium. I invite you to campus to see the marvelous changes that are taking place in preparation for our future. To God be the glory.

One thing will not change about Cedarville. If the Lord tarries, we will continue to fulfill the mission of the College as we remain faithful to the ageless Book of Books.



ITINERARIES

Dr. Paul Dixon, President

Kalamazoo, MI—Westwood Baptist Church, May 19-20

Auburn, IN—Bible Baptist Church, May 27

Cedarville, OH—94th Commencement, Cedarville College, June 2

Cincinnati, OH—Mariemont Community Church, June 3

Toledo, OH—Toledo Christian Schools Commencement, June 12

Grand Rapids, MI—Calvary Church, June 17

Niagara Falls, NY—Council of 18, June 21-22

Niagara Falls, NY—GARBC National Conference, June 25-29

Crawfordsville, IN—East Side Baptist Church, July 1

Merrillville, IN—Bethel Baptist Church, July 5

Cincinnati, OH—Tri-County Baptist Church, July 25

Warren, OH—First Baptist Church, July 26

Dr. James T. Jeremiah, Chancellor

Bunker Hill, IL—Missionary Valley Fellowship of GARB Churches, May 5

Roxana, IL—First Baptist Church, May 6-9

Union City, IN—Cornerstone Baptist Church, May 27

Cedarville, OH—94th Commencement, Cedarville College, June 2

Canandaigua, NY—Pastors' Conference, June 4-6

Niagara Falls, NY—GARBC National Conference, June 25-29

Chillicothe, OH—Calvary Baptist Church, July 8

Montrose, PA—Montrose Bible Conference, July 30-August 5

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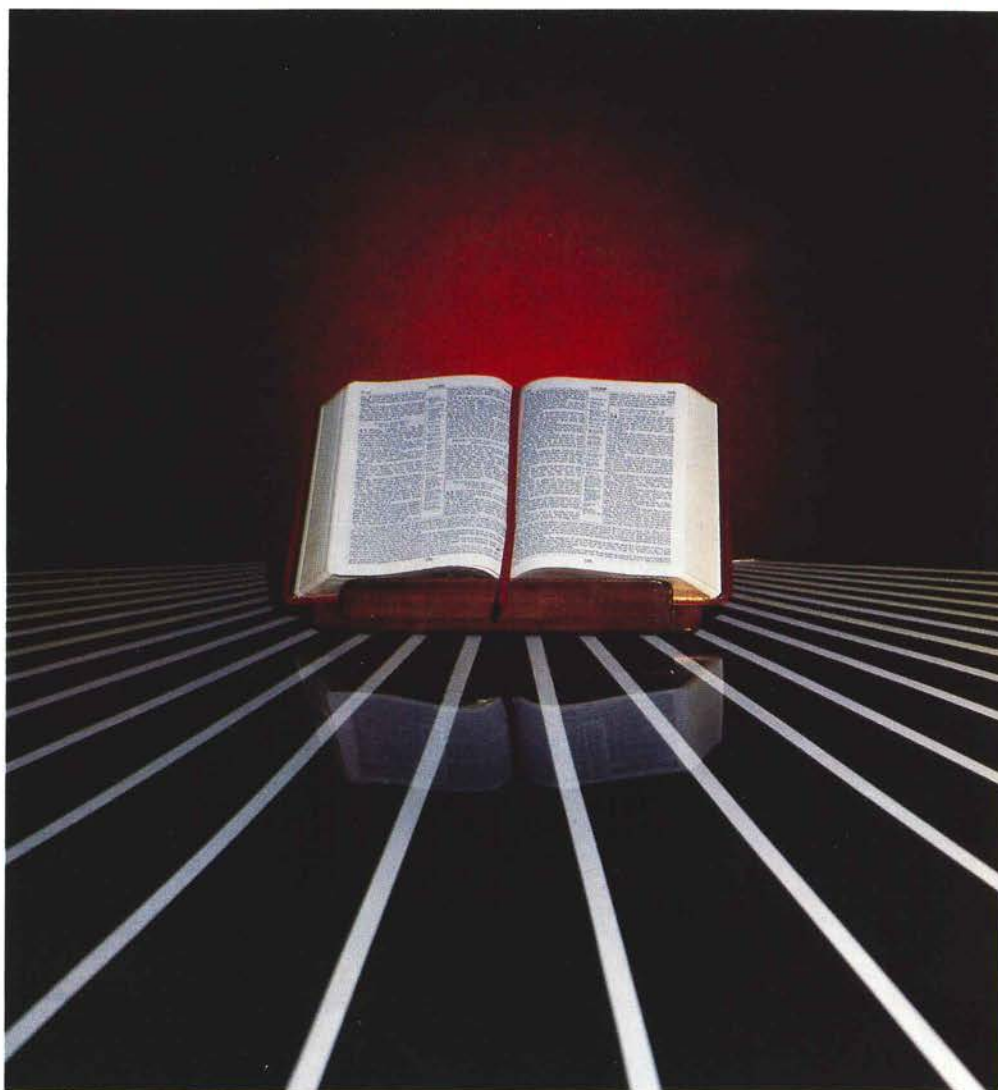
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Cedarville TORCH Managing Editor

This Ancient Book Can Meet Your 21st Century Needs

by Dr. Norman L. Geisler



Can Any Book Be Timeless?

How can an ancient book answer the questions of modern man? How could something written two or three thousand years ago have anticipated the needs of people facing the 21st century?

Obviously, it couldn't if it is merely a human book. But the Bible is not merely a human book; it is the Word of the Living God. Paul said, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,

and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17 New King James Version).

Yes, the Bible was written by human beings, in human languages, living in human cultures, and using normal human forms of expressions.

There were some 40 authors in all, including Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Solomon, and David in the Old Testament. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, and Peter wrote most of the New Testament.



These human authors of the Bible confessed, however, that their words came from God. Peter declared, "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke

as they were moved
by the Holy
"Spirit" (2 Peter
1:21 NKJV). The
Apostle Paul
insisted, "These
things we also speak,
not in words

which human wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches..." (1 Corinthians 2:13 NKJV). On his deathbed, David confessed, "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His Word was on my tongue" (2 Samuel 23:2 NKJV).

Of course, the God of the Bible is eternal (Deuteronomy 33:27) and never-changing (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 1:10-12). Thus, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8 NKJV).

The Bible is a "now" book because God is the great Now. He said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14 NKJV). As the Eternal One, God has no past nor future. Everything is present to Him in the now of His eternity.

The God Who can see the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10) has no problem making something said yesterday relevant today. It is as though we humans are at a railroad crossing watching a passing train. With our tunnel vision, we see only one car of the train at a time as it passes by. But God sees the entire train spread out before Him. In like manner, He sees time from His eternal vantage point. Therefore, the truths of the Bible are as timeless as is the God of the Bible.

Is The Bible Out of Date?

Many things in the Bible seem to be dated. Certainly Christians today are not bound by the Old Testament laws to offer a lamb as a sacrifice for sins. Christ is "...the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29 NKJV). Neither are we obliged to be circumcised according to the law of Moses, as Paul made evident (Galatians 5:6,11). Nor is it our duty to avoid "unclean"

meats, such as pork and shrimp. These were cleansed by Jesus (Mark 7:19; Acts 10). We are not under the Old Testament law of Moses (Romans 6:14); we are under the New Testament law of Christ (Galatians 6:2). However, there are some things even in the New Testament that seem time-bound. Surely, "Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss" (1 Thessalonians 5:26 NKJV) and "lift up holy hands in prayer" (1 Timothy 2:8 New International Version) are not obligatory in the present.

Then how do we know what is for today and what is not?

What Are Timeless Truths of Scripture?

The answer is simple: *whatever reflects the nature of God is timeless*. Every attribute of God is eternal and changeless. Two of God's attributes which are desperately needed in our world today--*love* and *truth*--may serve as illustrations.

God is love (1 John 4:16). So, love is as changeless as God is. Our understanding of love may change, but love itself does not change. God is love, and God does not change.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, Paul exhorted husbands to love their wives as their own bodies (Ephesians 5:28). This truth is as timely today as when Paul wrote it.

Even the famous, unbelieving philosopher, Bertrand Russell, acknowledged that the world needs Christian love. Neither the need for love nor the nature of true love has changed in the last 2,000 years.

Love is not an incidental truth of Scripture. Jesus declared it to be the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:37,38) and the very essence of the Law (Matthew 7:12). So, when we speak of love, we are speaking of the central moral message of the Bible. In this very basic sense, this ancient Book is as modern as the morning newspaper.

To be more specific, love can be so general that it is possible to miss its message in particular. For example, intentionally taking an innocent life is an unloving act. Thus, "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13 NKJV) also is a timeless truth of Scripture.

Long before Moses gave the Law to Israel, God told Noah, "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man" (Genesis 9:6 NKJV). Judging by the astronomical number of human beings we kill each day in America, this timeless truth is more needed today than ever before. At the rate of 1.5 million per

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NEWS TODAY

Infant mortality rate worsens

year, there are 4,300 abortions per day, or three every minute!

Life-taking is a serious problem. It is a capital offense. That is why God exacted a capital punishment for it. Humans are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and to attack the image of God is to attack the God in whose image they are made.

Our contemporary society has cheapened life. The average young person sees nearly 20,000 murders on TV before he graduates from high school. No wonder someone referred to the magic box in our living rooms as "Tel-a-Violence." What could be more relevant for a violent society than the ancient voice of God: "Thou shalt not kill."

God is truth (Hebrews 6:18; John 1:14; 14:6). Thus, the obligation to be truthful is as relevant today as it was 3,500 years ago when Moses wrote, "You shall not bear false witness..." (Exodus 20:16 NKJV). Paul added, "Do not lie one to another..." (Colossians 3:9 NKJV).

Lying is cheap and, therefore, is one of the most common sins. But truth is the moral glue that holds society together. Without truth, all contracts, covenants, and promises mean nothing. Truthfulness and integrity are the very fiber of our democracy.

The lack of integrity in public officials always has been a matter of great concern. Mark Twain called attention to it nearly a century ago in his book, *Christian Science*:

This is an honest nation--in private life. The American Christian is a straight and clean and honest man, and, in his private commerce with his fellows, can be trusted to stand faithfully by the principles of honor and honesty imposed upon him by his religion. But the moment he comes forward to exercise public trust, he can be confidently counted upon to betray that trust in nine cases out of ten, if "party loyalty" shall require it.... His Christianity is of no use to him and has no influence on him when he is acting in a public capacity.

Twain concludes with this indictment: "There are Christian Private Morals, but there are no Christian Public Morals at the polls, or in the Congress, or anywhere else--except here and there and scattered around like lost comets in the solar system."

Sadly, his indictment is as true today as it was nearly a century ago--no doubt, more so. There is nothing more relevant for our day than a man of integrity--one who, as the psalmist said, "keeps his oath even when it hurts" (Psalm 15:4 NIV). We Christians are called upon to be salt and light (Matthew 5:14-16). Paul urged us to shine as lights "in the midst of a crooked and depraved generation" (Philippians 2:15 NIV). What an opportunity we have to be a sanctifying influence in our sinful society today.

Here again, there is timeless relevance in living according to the character of the timeless God. Paul said to Timothy, "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV). Thankfully, it is "impossible for God to lie" (Hebrews 6:18 NKJV).

Integrity is of His very nature. How refreshing and relevant it is when we see this age-old biblical truth manifest in people we know, especially public figures.

Abraham Lincoln is known as a man of integrity. When he was only 24 years old, he served as the postmaster of New Salem, Illinois. His remuneration was a mere \$55.70 per year. Even then, nearly a quarter of a century before entering the White House, the old rail-splitter had earned the title of "Honest Abe."

The New Salem post office was closed in 1836, but several years passed before an agent arrived from Washington to settle the accounts. The agent informed Lincoln that he owed the government \$17. Lincoln walked across the room, opened the old trunk, and untied an old cloth which contained \$17. He had been holding it in trust all those years. "I never use any man's money but my own," Lincoln replied. That's biblical integrity!

Can the Bible Really Meet Our Needs Today?

Lincoln said of the Bible, "In regard to this great book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to men.... But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."

The poet was surely right when he said:

When I search the world for the best,
I come back laden from my quest,
To find what all the sages said
Is in the book our fathers read.

And we, their children, likewise can find answers to our modern problems from this ancient book. But first we have to read it.

Recently it was reported that Communists are seriously studying the Ten Commandments as a possible basis for their now defunct system. At the recent National Prayer Breakfast, Secretary of State James Baker told of gifts he and Soviet Foreign Secretary Shevardnadze had exchanged. Baker gave the Russian a pair of cowboy boots by which to remember America. Secretary Baker received a picture of Jesus teaching the multitudes.

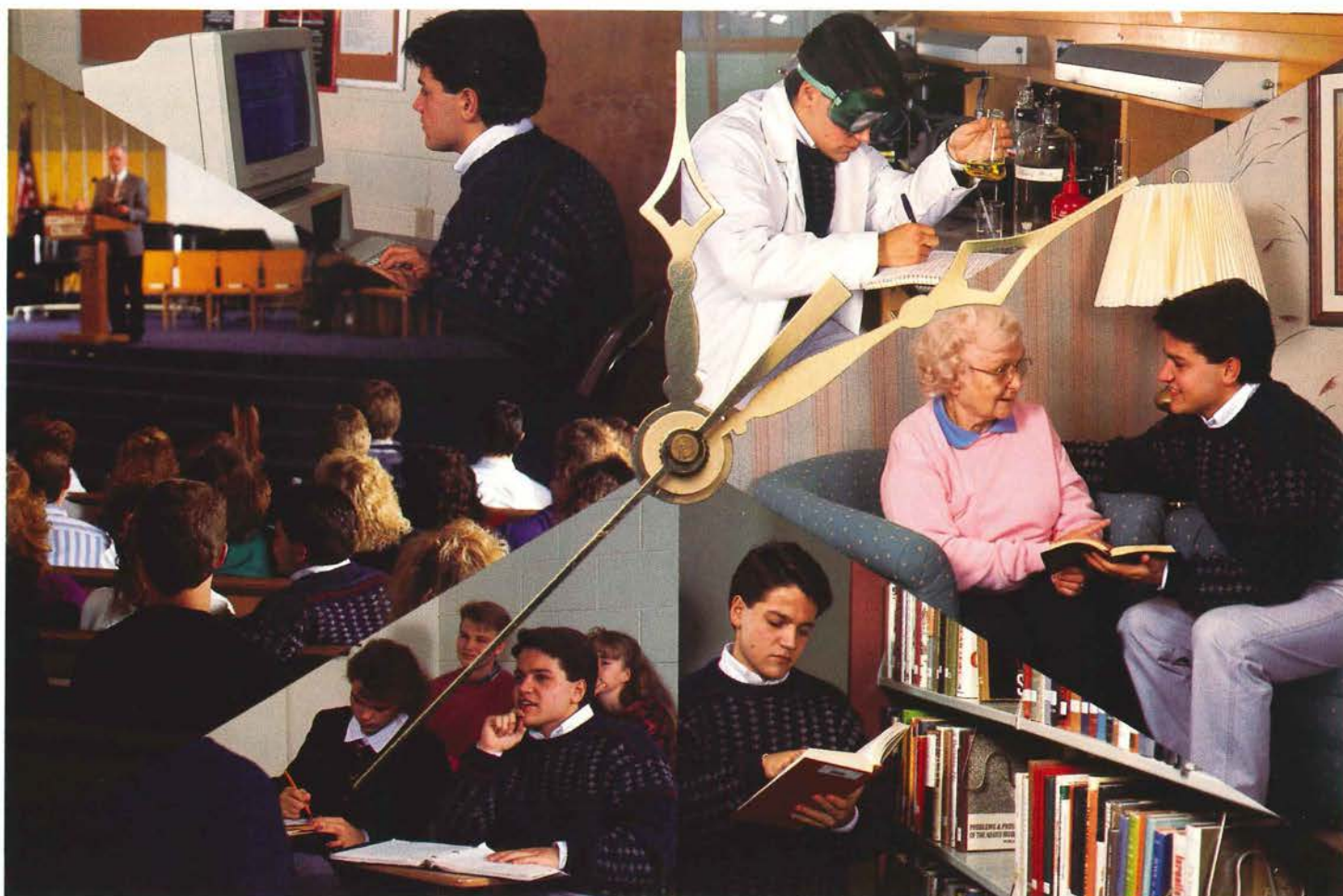
With a twinkle, Shevardnadze said, "You see, even we Communists are changing."

The teachings of Christ in the Bible will change anyone who will believe them--anytime, anywhere. "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword..." (Hebrews 4:12).



Dr. Norman L. Geisler is Dean of Liberty Center for Research and Scholarship at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia. He is author of more than 30 books, including *General Introduction to the Bible* (Moody), and his most recent, *The Battle for the Resurrection* (Thomas Nelson).

NEWS TODAY



College Tradition Calls It **THE ANNUAL FUND.** In Reality, It's **THE DAILY FUND!**

That's how often a gift to the Cedarville College Annual Fund touches the life of a Cedarville student.

As you can see, offering students a life-developing education is more than a once-a-year occurrence. It is a process taking place every day, with activities like chapel, library research, class under a qualified faculty member, or a Christian ministry.

While a Cedarville education includes these many facets, each is designed to help complete one task: to further prepare each student to serve Christ in his God-given capacity.

Fulfilling this mission and providing these various activities is costly. But rather than burden each student with the total cost, we choose to give others—friends, alumni, churches, and corporations—the opportunity to help, to actually stand by our students as partners in their education.

Thankfully, many are touching our students continually through the Annual Fund, helping to:

- furnish resources like computers and library books
- provide competent faculty and staff
- assist students with financial aid
- maintain facilities
- provide activities like chapel, Christian ministries, and resident hall programs

Because of others' help in providing each of these, we are able to see, every day, another step taken toward achieving our purpose.

Yet, whether it is called the Annual Fund or the "Daily Fund," one thing is certain: the need is continual, because our task is continual. And there can never be too many partners involved with our students in their education.

If you desire to influence our students, consider taking part in the Cedarville College Annual Fund. It is one of the few investments in which you can make a difference each and every day.

You may wish to take advantage of such Annual Fund opportunities as the Torch Club, Charter Society, or President's Associates. By whichever means, please become a part of the "Daily Fund" today, and share in the reality of preparing students to become both competent professionals and more committed Christians.



I want to invest in the students of Cedarville College and have a daily influence on their education.

Enclosed is:

\$ _____

Please send me more information about:

- ☐ Torch Club (\$120 per year)
☐ Charter Society (\$500 per year)
☐ President's Associates (\$1,000 per year)

Name _____

Address _____

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The Annual Fund
of Cedarville College

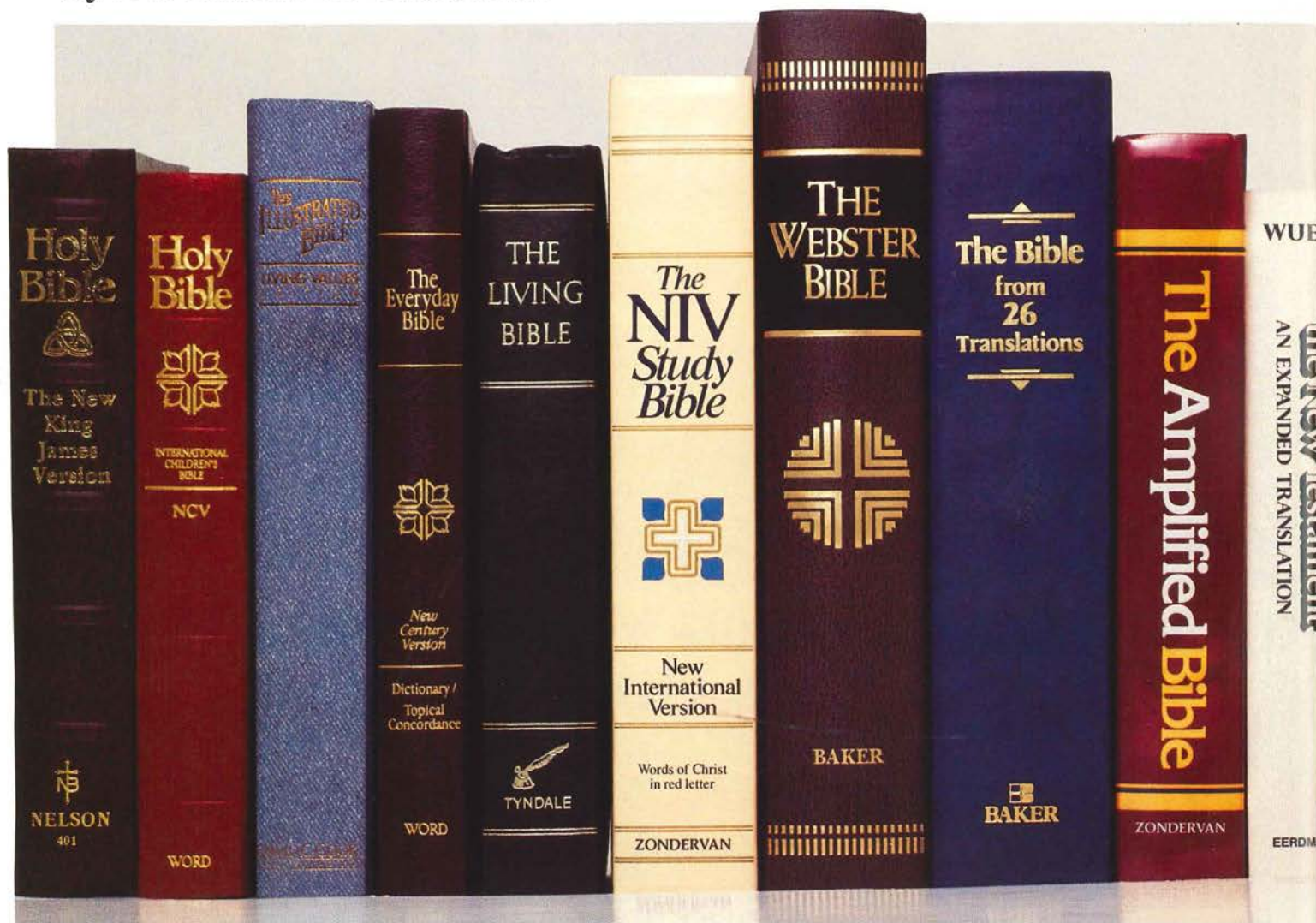
Making a Difference.

S 90 DF

Every day

Which Translation

by Dr. Robert G. Gromacki



Multiple English versions of the Bible—their abundance, their availability, and their low cost—should be causes for great rejoicing. And many believers do thank God for them.

However, a cloud of suspicion and mistrust hangs over the world of English Christendom. Today, unfortunately, the measure of a person's loyalty to God, to Christ, and to the Scriptures is being determined by his choice and usage of one English version over that of another. Much confusion and harm to the cause of Christ have been the results.

Truth and love must form the guiding principles for a proper understanding of translations (see Ephesians 4:15).

Explanation of Inspiration

First, only the Bible is inspired of God.

The word "inspiration" occurs only once in the text of the New Testament. The Apostle Paul wrote, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Those six words, "is given by inspiration of God," are the translation of one Greek word, *theopneustos*. Literally, it means "God-breathed." The Scripture

thus has been breathed out by God. What is written is just as much the Word of God as what God would speak orally.

Technically, inspiration refers to the writings, not to the human authors nor to the responses of readers. Of course, the Holy Spirit constrained, burdened, and guided the authors to write what they did (2 Peter 1:21).

Second, the Bible is the inspired truth.

Jesus prayed to the Father, "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17). God is truth, thus

Is Really Inspired?



This concept is known as verbal inspiration. Inspiration thus refers to words—the choice of vocabulary and the arrangement of words in sentence structure. Thus, there is a divine reason behind the presence or absence of a definite article, the usage of verbal tenses and moods, and the function of noun cases. Christ asserted that “the Scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). The Bible is a singular unit. Its parts cannot be separated from the whole. The entire canon of 66 books cannot be destroyed and neither can its individual words and sentences.

Fifth, the Bible is inspired, technically speaking, in only the original writings which the Spirit-directed authors wrote.

These original documents are known today as the *autographa*, meaning “the writings themselves.”

In October 1978, the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy (ICBI) held a summit meeting in which over 250 scholars signed a document which put forth the evangelical position on the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures. Nineteen Articles of Affirmation and Denial were issued. Article X says, “We affirm that inspiration, strictly speaking, applies only to the autographic text of Scripture, which, in the providence of God, can be ascertained from available manuscripts with great accuracy. We further affirm that copies and translations of Scripture are the Word of God to the extent that they faithfully represent the original.”

Although the term, “inspiration,” *technically speaking*, refers only to the original writings of the Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles, it is still possible to say, *practically speaking*, that the King James Version (KJV), the New American Standard Bible (NASB), and the New International Version (NIV) also are inspired to that extent whereby they faithfully represent the content of the original writings. This distinction between the original writings and subsequent copies, versions, and translations must be seen and understood.

He always speaks truth. As the breathed-out Word of God, the Bible consequently is truth. This statement means more than that the Bible contains truth. Rather, it affirms that the Bible *is* divinely revealed and spoken truth.

No human, regardless of his native intelligence, intuition, or education, could have originated the truth of Scripture (1 Corinthians 2:12). The ability to transmit divinely revealed truth also necessitated the guidance of the Spirit in the lives of the biblical authors (1 Corinthians 2:13).

Third, the Bible is inspired equally throughout all 66 books.

This concept is known as plenary inspiration. The Old Testament, therefore, is just as inspired as the New Testament. The words of Paul in his epistles are just as inspired as the words of Jesus Christ recorded in the Gospels. The genealogies are just as inspired as the Ten Commandments.

Fourth, the Bible is inspired down to the very words which the authors used.

Sixth, the Bible is inerrant [free from error] and infallible [incapable of error] in all matters which it addresses.

The Bible is inspired truth, not only in issues of doctrinal faith and moral living, but also in areas of history, geography, and science.

Members of the Evangelical Theological Society, to which I belong, subscribe annually to a basic doctrinal statement: "The Bible alone, and the Bible in its entirety, is the Word of God written and is, therefore, inerrant in the autographs."

The issue of the complete inerrancy and infallibility of the total original Scriptures is the real doctrinal battleground today. Those who embrace this foundational doctrine should unite against the attacks made by both liberals and some evangelicals.

A person who uses the KJV should be committed to the full inerrancy of the Scriptures. Likewise, those who employ the NIV or NASB also should embrace the position of total inerrancy. The common acceptance of inerrancy should overrule and govern the relationships of those who use different English translations. Charges of heresy should be hurled at those who deny inerrancy, not at those who believe in inerrancy but who use a different English version.

Seventh, the Bible is the supreme authoritative basis of faith and practice.

That concept means that only the Bible can be the supreme, written norm by which God can bind our consciences.

When Martin Luther stood before the Diet of Worms in 1521, he was asked to give a plain answer to the question: "Will you recant?" His classic answer has been quoted for almost 470 years: "If the emperor desires a plain answer, I will give it to him. It is impossible for me to recant unless I am proved to be wrong by the testimony of Scripture. My conscience is bound to the Word of God. It is neither safe nor honest to act against one's conscience. Here I stand. God help me. I cannot do otherwise."

Luther's allegiance was not to a German translation of the Scriptures nor to the Hebrew and Greek texts which he possessed. His vow of commitment was to the inspired, inerrant Word of God, as originally breathed out by God and as faithfully represented in the version before him.

In like manner, we evangelicals must tenaciously stand for the inerrancy and inspiration of the written Word without compromise. However, we must allow our fellow-soldiers of the faith to express their commitment through the usage of Spanish, French, German, Bengali, Japanese, and various English translations. We must not allow the usage of one version to become the standard of orthodoxy, a fundamental of the faith comparable to the virgin birth and deity of Jesus Christ.

Work of Translators

Translation is no simple task. It is difficult to translate the meaning of the idiom and grammatical structure of one language into that of another. Linguistic scholars and translators are a rare breed.

Good translators desire good translations.

They want their work to manifest the true meaning of the source text. They want their text to be clear and natural.

Good translators follow accepted principles of translation.

Basically, there are two methods of doing translation work. Each method will lead to a different result. The methods are known as formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence.

In formal equivalence, the attention is focused on the actual text—on its form and content. In a word, what the text *is*. The translator then tries to reproduce that form and content into a second language. In this sense the KJV and the NKJV (New King James Version) are formal equivalent translations of the Received Greek Text and the Hebrew text. In like manner, the NASB is a formal equivalent translation of the Critical Greek text and Hebrew text. The NIV also is a formal equivalent translation,

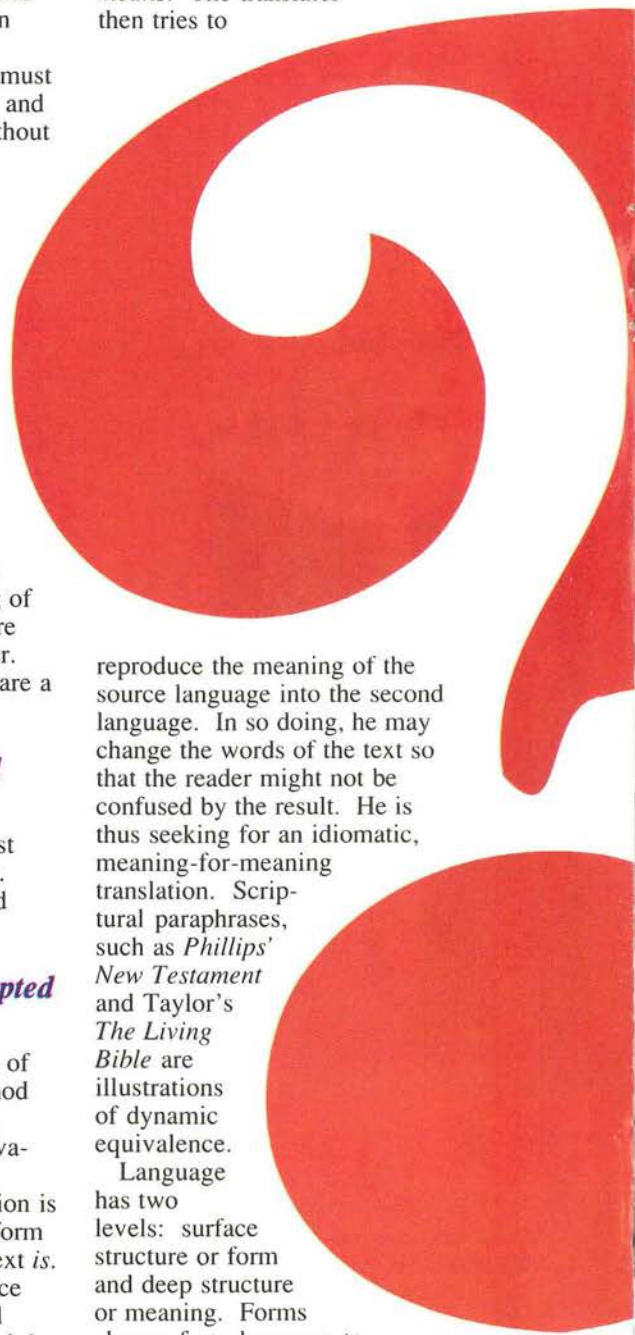
but it stresses the meaning of the idiom and, thus, is not as literal as the NASB.

In dynamic equivalence, the attention is focused on the meaning of the text to the reader—in a word, what the text *means*. The translator then tries to

reproduce the meaning of the source language into the second language. In so doing, he may change the words of the text so that the reader might not be confused by the result. He is thus seeking for an idiomatic, meaning-for-meaning translation. Scriptural paraphrases, such as *Phillips' New Testament* and *Taylor's The Living Bible* are illustrations of dynamic equivalence.

Language has two levels: surface structure or form and deep structure or meaning. Forms change from language to language, but the meaning in a good translation should not. Since no two languages have the same surface structure, the translator faces a double task—to interpret and to translate.

In the original biblical writings, both the form and meaning were inspired and



perfectly paired together. In the translation of Scriptures from the Hebrew and Greek into other languages, including English, the translator must seek to keep the two (form and meaning) as close together as possible.

We should not permit the usage of a particular version to become the basis of personal and ecclesiastical fellowship.

God hates those who "sow discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:19). Rather, He instructs us "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). If a person who uses only the KJV declares as heretical another believer who chooses to use the NIV or the NASB, then that first person is disrupting spiritual unity. Loyalty to Christ and the inspired Word of God should not be measured by the version which a believer chooses to read or to use in public ministry.

We can have confidence that the major English versions protect and propagate the evangelical Christian faith.

All four major versions (KJV, NKJV, NIV, NASB) forthrightly present the deity of Christ. In fact, all four translate John 1:1 in the same way: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

In John 1:18, there is a variant reading in the Critical Greek Text which is manifested in the two translations based upon it (NASB and NIV). The KJV has the phrase "the only begotten Son," whereas the NIV has "God the One and Only," and the NASB has "the only begotten God." The Son, of course, is God, and God is the Son. Actually, the two modern versions give a stronger proof for the deity of Christ than the KJV in this passage.

The same comparisons can be made in salvation passages, such as John 3:16. All these versions equally present that faith in Jesus Christ alone saves the trusting sinner.

We should read prayerfully and carefully.

No matter what translation we use, we never will be able to understand the meaning of God's revealed Word unless we are totally dependent upon the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. The secret in knowing His Word is not in finding a better translation than the one which we presently have. Rather, we will be successful in knowing His

revealed will as we spend more time in worshipful study and humble submission.

In conclusion, may I "commend you to God, and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified" (Acts 20:32).



Dr. Robert G. Gromacki, professor of Bible and Greek and chairman of the Department of Biblical Education, is completing his 30th year at Cedarville College. He has authored 12 books and is currently writing another. Dr. Gromacki also writes the column, "Bible Questions Answered," in *Confident Living* magazine.

Attitudes Toward Translations

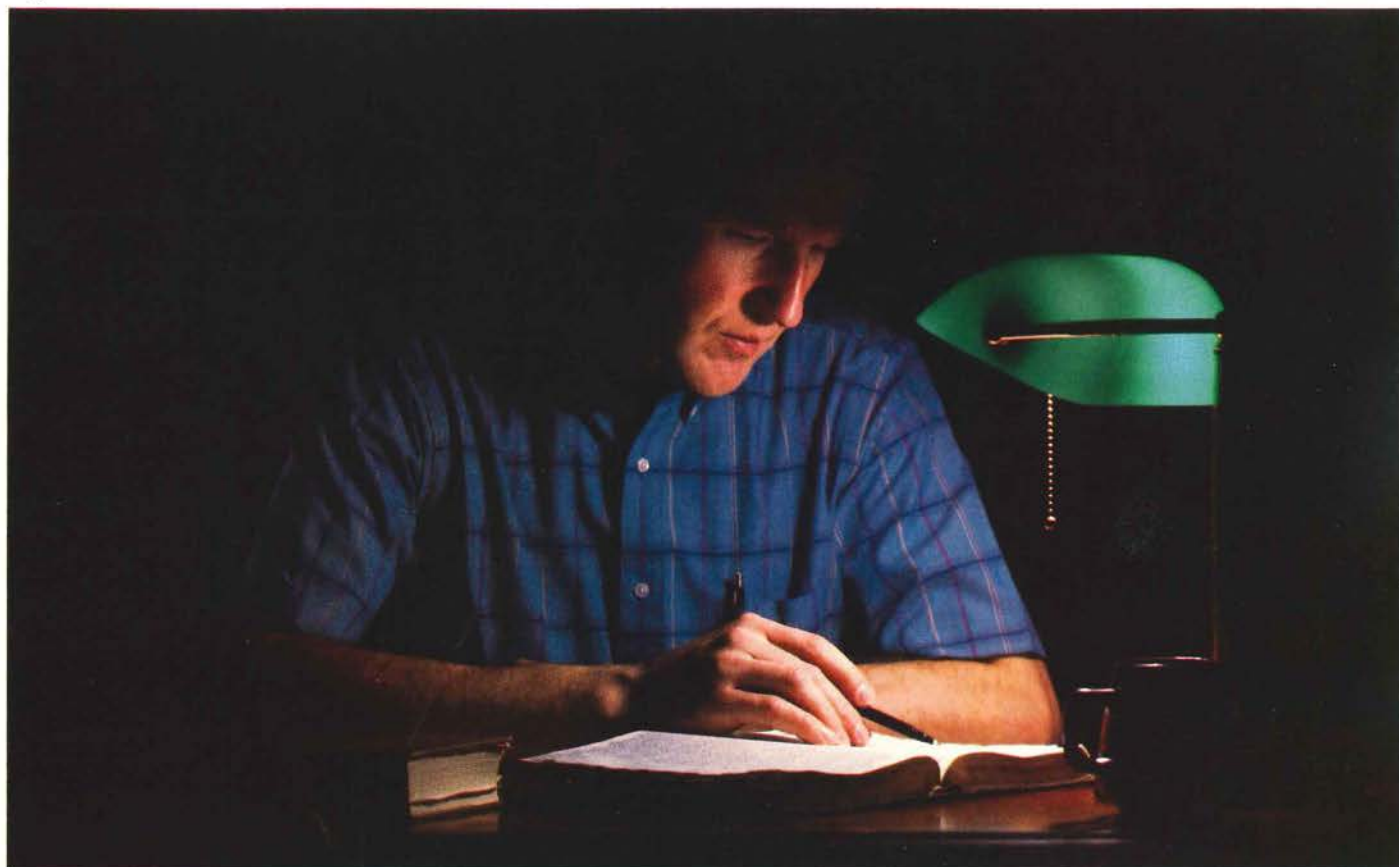
We should be thankful that we can use all these English versions for our personal edification.

Paul criticized the Corinthian church for its carnal attitude of following one gifted leader and neglecting another (1 Corinthians 3:4). In a similar vein, some believers today have given their allegiance to one English version and have either ignored or criticized the other versions. In effect, some of the Christian world is saying, "I am of the KJV!" And others, "I am of the NASB!" And still others, "I am of the NIV!" In so doing, they are manifesting carnality. Instead, they should rejoice that these translations have been made. In fact, they should purchase a copy of each version, read each one, study each one, and compare them under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



How to Study Your Bible and Get Something Out of It

by Pastor William Bernhard, Jr.



Each year the Bible is the best seller in many countries; yet it remains one of the most unread books in the world. While people purchase expensive, leather-bound Bibles, many use them only on Sunday, allowing them to collect dust on a coffee table the rest of the week.

Recently our church invited the handbell choir from Shepherds Baptist Ministries to our morning service. Shepherds ministers to those with limited mental capabilities, yet one of the men shared how Christ has totally changed his life. As he has memorized Scripture, his language, habits, and lifestyle have been revolutionized.

This man's testimony reminded me of Psalm 19:7, "The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple" (NIV). The Word of God has made my friend "wise." Some might see him as "simple," intellectually

speaking, but God has given him understanding far beyond many "brilliant" intellectual scholars.

When Jesus was asked a question, He often answered with phrases like, "It is written," and quoted from the Old Testament. When the Pharisees asked Him questions, He frequently countered with a penetrating question, "Have you not read?" or "Don't you know?" (Matthew 12:3,5,7; 22:29-31 NIV)

I often wonder what He would say to us if He visited our churches. Perhaps He would look at us with disappointment and ask, "Haven't you read your Bible?" Many of the questions we have in life could be answered if we would study the Word of God.

It is ironic that, while in our own fundamentalist movement we have such a high view of inspiration and authority of the Word of God, few people actually study this inspired book.

Recently, a man in our church brought to the platform a large stack of Bibles he has collected since childhood. He showed us each one, told who had given it to him, and pointed out the obviously excellent condition of each. He had a Bible of every color and size, and some even had study notes, yet each had been read only occasionally other than in church.

What about your Bible? Is it in that condition, too?

How about deciding today that you are really going to get into your Bible. The Nike commercial puts it this way: "Just do it!"

Here are some ways to get started.

The Right Translation for You

First of all, obtain a copy of the Bible that you enjoy reading. Are you comfortable reading the English from the

17th century, or are you frustrated because you don't understand the King's English?

If you were not raised on the King James Version, you might find a more modern translation like the New American Standard (NASB) or the New International Version (NIV) very helpful. Dr. Robert Gromacki's article in this issue of *Cedarville TORCH* points out the accuracy and trustworthiness of our English Bibles.

Twelve years ago I bought an NIV and it revolutionized my devotional life. I understand better the message of God to me, which has led to many life-changing results. I am convinced there can be no life change without clear understanding.

One of the reasons revival broke out in Nehemiah's day is recorded in Nehemiah 8:8, "They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that people could understand what was being read" (NIV). Many commentators believe the Levites actually translated the Scriptures into the language of the people so that, for the first time, they really understood the Law of God. The result was life-changing obedience to the Word of God.

If your Bible reading has grown stale, or if you are a new Christian, I strongly urge you to consider using an NIV or NASB Bible.

The Right Time and Place for You

Decide on a time and place you can meet with God. The morning hours usually are preferred because you can have Scripture on your mind all day. Set your alarm 15 minutes earlier than you usually wake up. Find a place where you can have these new minutes of uninterrupted quiet time. It may be at a desk, in a bedroom, the basement, or a lighted closet. As you pillow your head tonight, make a promise to the Lord that you are going to do it, then fulfill your commitment by getting up earlier tomorrow. In your quiet place with your Bible, you are ready to begin.

Some Ways to Start

The Psalms are a good place to start. You may want to include your hymn book and begin by worshipping God in song. Music can be a wonderful way to prepare your heart to hear His Word. Many of the Psalms themselves were

put to music.

The writers, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, penned the words as they considered God's ways and expressed the depths of their souls to Him. The Psalms can be profitable to you as you speak them back to Him from your own heart.

Try reading a Psalm each day and responding to the following in a notebook (see **Journaling** later in this article): (1) What did the author talk about? (2) Write the verse you like best. (3) What does this Psalm say to you?

Studying Psalms can be an excellent guide to worship and a reminder of how to be honest with God. They also demonstrate the importance of reflection and meditation upon things that God has done for us.

Another valuable approach to the Bible is to study the life of Christ and note each event. Consider the following: (1) Put into your own words the story that was told. (2) If Jesus gives the meaning or interpretation, summarize it briefly. (3) What is the main lesson of the story? (4) How will this message apply to or change your life?

A good way to proceed is to read passages from both Testaments each day. The *One Year Bible*, published by Tyndale, is helpful for this kind of study. Each of the 365 daily readings offers a passage from the Old Testament, one from the New, a Psalm, and one or two proverbs. The readings can be accomplished within the 15-minute time frame.

Many people in our church have found *The One Year Bible* a helpful tool in their devotional lives. If you never have read through the entire text of the Bible, this might be an excellent resource for you. It gives variety and freshness to your Bible reading.

Devotional Guides

Dozens of devotional books and guides are available. These can be very helpful and are available through Christian publishers and bookstores. One word of caution, however. It is often very convenient just to read from the devotional book and never open the Word of God. Please don't neglect reading the Bible along with your devotional guide.

Journaling

Journaling, or writing down insights from your daily visit with God, can be a

practical way to learn to listen to God speak to you. Many godly men and women down through the centuries have kept journals and have found them to be excellent aids to spiritual growth. Recording lessons learned, questions, and even times of discouragement and despair ultimately can strengthen your resolve to be in the Word just as God is faithful to His promises to you.

Accountability

If you have failed a number of times to maintain your consistency in the Word each day, you should consider teaming up with your mate or a friend and establishing an accountability with that person. Once a week, get together and report on how well you did the previous week and what you learned. Knowing you will give an account can motivate you to fulfill your responsibility.

The four pastors in our church meet each Monday and report to each other as friends how well we did the previous week in our spiritual lives. That motivation and relationship has sharpened the spiritual walk of each of us.

What About Family Devotions?

My wife and I are thankful for parents who passed on to their children the value of a family devotional time. With the average American father spending less than five minutes of quality time per working day with his children, more and more families struggle to fulfill Deuteronomy 6:6-9, which states, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates" (NIV).

How can parents pass on to their children the truths of God? Through regular family devotions.

It's important to keep family devotions fairly brief (about 10 minutes), especially if you have young children. Letting the time drag may cause children to conclude that the Bible is boring. Rather, keep the focus upbeat and interesting. Make it the high point of the day.

Since our children are young, our experience has been to set time daily at the breakfast table for reading from a children's Bible story book. We have found that singing songs that relate to the

story is an effective means of teaching and adds variety. Acting out the story adds some fun and excitement, and simple review questions following the reading help keep our family members attentive.

Our prayer time usually centers on at least three subjects. First, we thank God for the lesson we learned from His Word that day and ask Him to help us to obey it. Second, we think through our day's activities and commit our ways to the Lord. Third, we take two or three Christmas cards from a basket which contains all the cards we received that year. We pray for these families and any special needs we might know about them.

Our evenings usually include AWANA memory verses and assignments and reading books with our children.

Every family must find a schedule acceptable to them, but the important thing is that every Christian

family needs to be in the Bible together.

If you have never had a regular quiet time with God, get started today. You *can* understand the Bible. True, some passages are difficult, but the Bible was written that we might know God personally. Remember, the focus is on *Him*. Christianity is a personal relationship with the living God—a relationship that is developed through reading the Bible (God communicating with us) and through prayer (our communicating with Him).

Remember the man in our church who had the large stack of Bibles of every size and color? There is a wonderful ending to his story. Over a year ago, through an all-church emphasis on Bible reading, he began reading daily in his newest Bible.

His testimony is that he hasn't missed a day since he began, and his life has been radically changed. He has sensed God leading him into His service and is preparing to attend seminary soon.

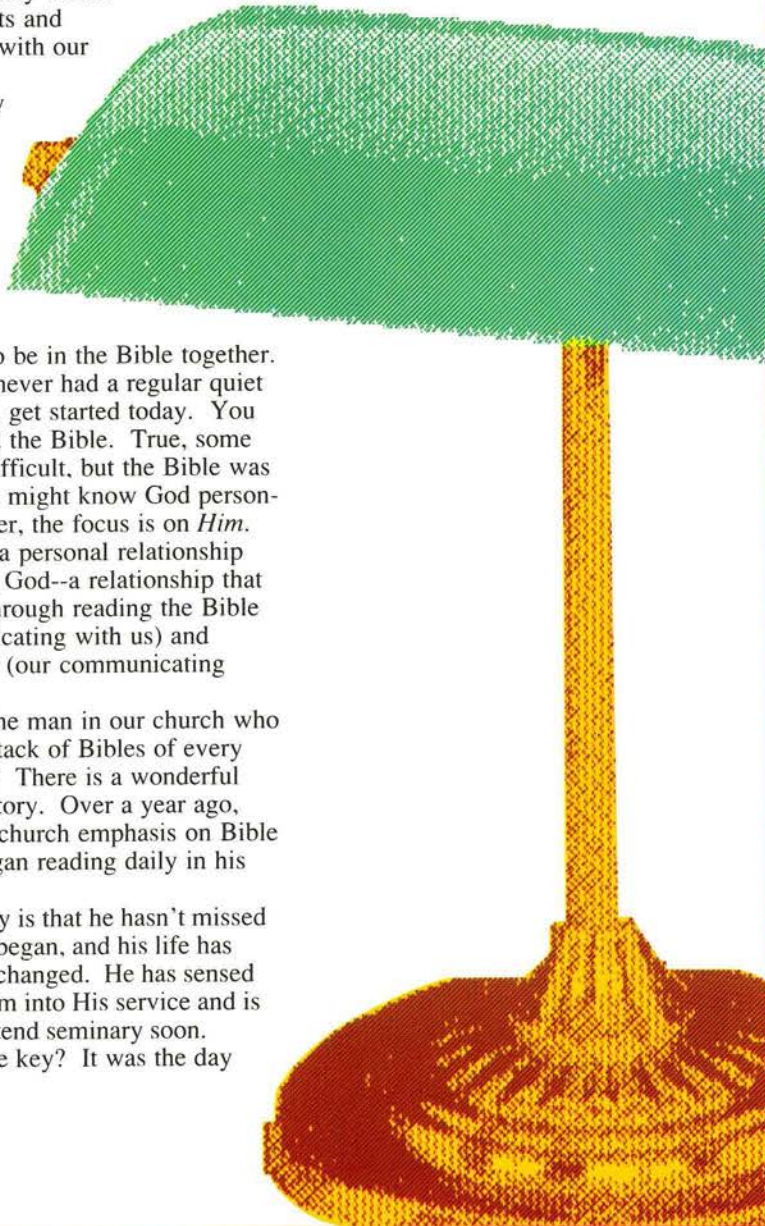
What was the key? It was the day

he decided to begin reading his Bible regularly.

Getting into your Bible will bring untold blessings. But be advised, it will change your life!



William Bernhard, Jr., pastors Garfield Baptist Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He is a 1977 graduate of Cedarville College.



Does it really matter what the Bible says?



Yes, it matters. In fact, it matters eternally for every person.

Ultimately, one's acceptance of the authority of the Bible as God's Word determines his acceptance of Jesus Christ as God's Son.

The nature of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ—accepting His death and resurrection as full payment for one's sins and sole claim to one's right standing before God—is based completely on what the Bible says. God has spoken, and the record of His revelation is the inerrant and authoritative Bible.

What has God said about your eternity?

"...for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."
Romans 3:23 NIV

"...man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."
Hebrews 9:27 NIV

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord."
Romans 6:23 NIV

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16 NIV

"...God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8 NIV

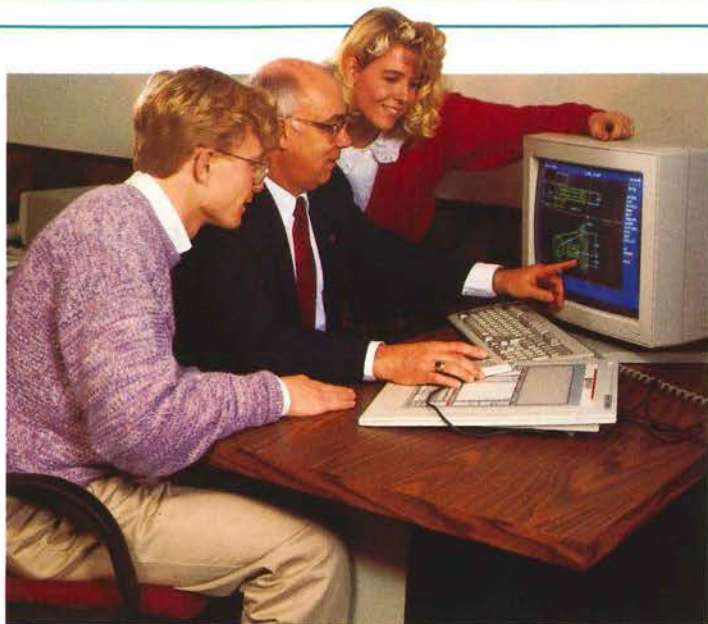
"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."
Romans 10:10 NIV

How do you respond to these Scriptures you have just read?

May God give you the grace to obey His Word and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

For more information, please contact:
Rev. Harold Green
Vice President for Christian Ministries
P.O. Box 601
Cedarville, OH 45314
513-766-2211 ext. 202

CAMPUS NEWS



Dr. Daniel Wetzel, chairman of Cedarville's department of Science and Mathematics, demonstrates a CAD unit. Dr. Wetzel currently oversees the pre-engineering program and chaired the committee which conducted the feasibility study for engineering at Cedarville.

A gift of computer hardware and software from CAD CAM, Inc. of Dayton, will enhance Cedarville's new engineering program which is slated to begin in the fall of 1990. The company donated eleven 386 20MHz computers with 40MB hard drives, eleven digitabets, two plotters, one printer, and AutoCad software. The new equipment will accommodate 20 students at one time and will be used in entry level CAD (computer aided design) courses and in all design courses in the engineering program. Presently housed in the CAD Lab in the Science Center, the equipment will be moved to a lab in the proposed 61,455 square foot engineering building at its scheduled completion date in the fall of 1992. The CAD CAM gift is valued at \$90,000.

The College will continue to add Engineering Department faculty as the program, which offer majors in electrical and mechanical engineering, progresses. Interested candidates should contact Dr. Duane Wood, Academic Vice President.



Senior Gary Clemmer, state champion in the After Dinner Speaking category for two consecutive years

The Cedarville College forensics team won the state forensics (speech competition) championship based on sweepstakes points accumulated at two final tournaments sponsored by the Ohio State Forensics Association.

Cedarville accumulated 480 points, The Ohio State University was second with 301 points, and Bowling

Green State University was third with 287 points.

For the past six years Cedarville has topped other colleges in state competition, but this was the first overall state championship.

Dr. David Robey, associate professor of communication arts, directs the forensics program at Cedarville.



Dr. Don Callan

Dr. Don Callan, men's basketball coach and athletic director, received recognition from both the NAIA and NCCAA this spring.

He received NAIA's highest honor when he was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame on March 16 in Kansas City. The committee cited his athletic achievements and his exemplifying the highest ideals of intercollegiate athletics and

fine moral character. Callan's 465-369 record places him among NAIA's top 15 winningest coaches.

Cedarville College received the NCCAA's first Sports Ministries Award in recognition of the Athletes for Christ teams that have ministered under the direction of Dr. Callan. The award cited the basketball ministry in the Philippines, Coach John McGillivray's soccer team in the Ivory Coast, the women's basketball team in China, and the ministry in Spain in which Callan helped missionaries by holding basketball clinics and organizing men's recreational programs.

Dr. Callan is completing his 30th year at Cedarville College.



Bill and Eleanor Moyer of Blooming Glen, Pennsylvania, with daughter Susan, a 1989 graduate. The students elected Susan their 1988 Homecoming Queen.

“Susan Deepened Her Walk with God at Cedarville College” —Bill Moyer

“All Christian parents hope that their children will continue to grow in the Lord when they leave home. When Susan began to consider college, we realized that she still needed more molding spiritually. That’s why we encouraged her to make Cedarville the college of her choice. Her brothers Scott and Steve had attended there, and we were convinced that Cedarville was the place for our daughter, too.

“We were impressed with the family atmosphere, the caring attitude of the professors, and the daily emphasis on spiritual things. We knew that Susan could mature in Christ at Cedarville.

“During her four years there, Susan seemed to make the most of every minute. Her rigorous classes motivated her to develop good study habits. She took advantage of what seemed like endless cultural and recreational events, and she made friendships she will keep for a lifetime. She also learned to be a soul winner. Witness-

ing to youth in beach evangelism and to senior citizens in nursing homes were experiences she will never forget.

“Yes, a college education is expensive these days. But we were encouraged by the tremendous value we found at Cedarville. To us, Susan’s education was an excellent investment, not only in first class academic preparation, but also in character-building experiences that would mark her for life.

“Now our daughter is a graduate. And we are thrilled with the result. Cedarville must have been pleased with the result, too, because she currently is representing the college to prospective students.

“Her future? She is considering missions or work with inner city youth. Whatever she does, we feel she is ready spiritually. Yes, we feel that the Lord used Cedarville College to prepare her with fine academics, but most of all with the opportunity to deepen her walk with God.”

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